NORTH CAROLINA LAPIDARY SOCIETY

APRIL, 1983



MEETINGS: Sunday
Third Thursday each month.
GEMCRAFTERS
2106 Patterson St.
Greensboro, NC 27407



MEETING DATE: April 17, 1983

TIME

: 2:30 PM

PLACE

: GEMCRAFTERS

2106 Patterson St. Greensboro, NC

PROGRAM

: Tom Ricks will present a slide program

on FACET DESIGNING WITHOUT MATH.

ALSO, DON'T FORGET TO BRING A STONE THAT YOU HAVE CUT FROM ONE OF THE DESIGNS IN THE FEBRUARY, 1983 STONE CUTTER. This is for the stone evaluation mini-program.

DON'T FORGET YOUR MAGNIFIER.

OFFICERS 1983

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EXECUTIVE BOARD meets at the call of the president.

MEMBERSHIP DUES : \$12.00 per year - prorated quarterly.

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RANDOM NOTES

OUR PRESIDENT HAS RESIGNED!! As most members are by now aware, John Bayer resigned as President of the NCLS at the March, 1983 meeting. We all regret that John found it necessary to resign. We will miss him. Normally, the duties of the presidency would be assumed by the Vice President but we learned just at press time that because of a change in his work situation, Dennis Walters will be unable to serve.

This means that the duties of President will devolve on our present Secretary, PAULINE KEENEY. Everyone who can please attend the April meeting and lets let Pauline know that we are all with her and will support her in building a bigger and better North Carolina Lapidary Society.

MANY FAVORABLE COMMENTS were heard about our display case at the Raleigh, NC club's Gem and Mineral Show the last week-end in March. Many thanks to Eleanore Larson and her helpers for their efforts in setting up such an attractive display.

THE NCLS has agreed to sponsor a faceting competition in conjunction with the Gem and Mineral Show of the Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club in December, 1983. This will require "best efforts" from many members to arrange the Rules and judging criteria and publicize them in the short time remaining. Come to the April meeting and volunteer to do part of this BIG job.

The April meeting is turning out to be a facet designing symposium. If the details can be worked out there may even be a surprise for all in the form of some "homework" so that each one can design his/her own original facet cut. COME!! PARTICIPATE!!

38.005 THREE STAR GENERAL

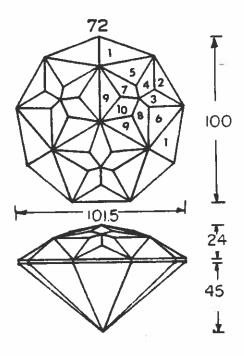
In STONE CUTTER for January, 1983
Paul Smith's design 3-STAR GENERAL was featured. On this and the following page we present a "corrigenda" or correction to Paul's design by Norman Steele of the Seattle Faceters Club.

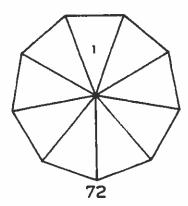
Norm's work in facet designing is well known and his comments are always helpful. In this instance the corrigenda seems to be in fact a modification.

Along with his original submission of the 3-STAR GENERAL Paul wrote, ---"notice that each star is inscribed in a pentagon. However it is not a regular pentagon. Consequently the star arms are not equal, and they are also distorted some in the crown diagram by foreshortening. They are designed to be as nearly equal as possible when looking directly at the star, not straight down on the crown. They could have been designed to be exactly equal if I had inclined the pentagons at 37.4 degrees rather than 24.4 as they are. Three regular pentagons inclined at 37.4 degrees will meet perfectly in the center. But that would have made the crown angles higher than I wanted".

Perhaps we have two designs. Norm's is certainly easier to cut because the cheater manipulation has been eliminated. Try it both ways and see which you like better.

REMEMBER, a stone cut to this design (one of them) is due to be brought to the June, '83 meeting of NCLS by each faceter member. TJR.





SEATTLE FACETOR DESIGN

FEBRUARY 1983

Reference: SMITH, Paul C, STONE CUTTER, Jan 83, n4

72 INDEX

L/W 1.015

PAVILION	FACET	CUTTING	INSTRUCTION	ONS
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	INVIDION PROBE GOIL	THG THEITHGOILENE	
STEP	DESIGN ANGLE 39.0 41.0 43.0	BEARING INDEX	
P1	90.0 90.0 90.0	68-60-52-44-36-28-20-14-04	ECED outline
P2	39.0 41.0 43.0	68-60-52-44-36-28-20-12-04	
Depth	39.2 42.1 45.2		Percent width
	CROWN FACET CUTTI	ING INSTRUCTIONS	
STEP	DESIGN ANGLE 35.0 37.0 42.0	BEARING INDEX	:=========
C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6	40.3 42.4 47.5 41.3 43.4 48.5 35.0 37.0 42.0 35.0 37.0 42.0 33.4 35.4 40.3 33.4 35.4 40.3	68-04-28-20-44-52 60 36 12 58.22 34.22 10.22 61.78 31.78 13.78 54 22 06 66 42 26	1/2/
C7 C8 C9 C10	22.7 24.2 28.3 22.7 24.2 28.3 14.0 15.0 17.8 12.6 13.6 16.1	54.12 30.12 6.12 65.88 41.88 17.88 70-02-26-22-50-46 60 36 12	1/2/
Height	22.5 24.2 29.0		Percent width

- 1/ Fractional index settings are based on proportional parts of one 72 index gear tooth i.e. proportional parts of 5 degrees. In the original reference Smith gives what he calls "compound settings" which seem to be nearly equivalent to actual angle degrees.
- 2/ Cheater settings are actually matched pairs + on the middle setting.

Pavilion sketch in the reference does not agree with the side view. It appears to be inverted. There is a typo in the indexing for the Crown in C1 64 should be 68 as I have it here.

Angles for C5, C6, and C10 were adjusted to eliminate need for fractional index settings (cheater/compound) on C5 and C6 as well as C3, C4, C7, and C8. Now that the cheater adjustment has been removed from C5 and C6 they could be cut as one step.

FACET ROUGH -

To Buy Or Not To Buy!

by Roy N. Greene

Over the past several years I have found that good facet rough is not only increasingly difficult to find, but when found, is expensive out of all reason. I'm sure that other facetors have had similar experiences.

What I hope to do here is to present an alternate course, buying native cut, Brazilian, Indian, Thai etc. stones and using them as preforms! Believe it or not, this can cost as little as one half the cost of cutting from rough. Consider; you want to cut a 10 carat Amethyst. With a 25 to 30 percent yield, you buy a 40 to 45 carat piece of rough, good medium color for about \$2.00 per carat or about \$90.00. A nice Brazilian cut stone of equal color, about 15 carats, from which your stone can be cut can be bought for about \$3.50 per carat or less or about \$52.00. Look at some of the advantages, it not only costs less, you also get a nice polished surface and can see exactly what kind of material you're getting. No overlooked flaws, feathers or banding. How many including myself, have had an expensive piece of rough turn out to have a flaw, nicely centered when the stone was completed?

I'm sure that all of you understand that a person cannotgo to a gem importer and buy just one stone, such as the amethyst mentioned above for the price given. Jewelers regularly pay \$12.00 to \$15.00 per carat for the quality amethyst used in the example. In order to get the quoted price, I purchased a parcel of 350 carats including stones ranging from 10 to 20 carats each.

The first thing that following this course requires is that someone in your club, or an agreeable Rock Shop owner, have an intimate knowledge of the current gem market and have access to various wholesale stone importers. If you don't know the market, beware! You can pay as much as \$120.00 or as little as \$35.00 per carat for identical one half to one carat Australian sapphires in parcels of 20 to 30 carats. The ruby market is even worse!

Your contact, who meets the above requirements, must also have your financial backing or be able to lay out funds to purchase parcels, say 200 to 300 carats of amethyst, citrine, garnet, blue topaz etc, or 20 to 30 carats of sapphire or 10 or so carats of ruby or emerald. Remember, if you depend on a professional who is laying out his own funds, you must expect him to make a small profit. If one of your group has the necessary qualifications and you back him, you could avoid even this cost.

To continue, lets look at the process of getting started in the gem market. The first thing you need is a State resale license and a little extra money. This gets you into the wholesale room at Gem and Mineral shows. Go to every show you can. Look over what each wholesaler has and compare prices. Don't overlook the fact that at shows, sometime you can buy identical items for less on the retail floor than you can in the wholesale room. Buy a few items, less expensive to start with, say 100 carats of amethyst, citrine or garnet. Get to know the dealers, be sure to get their cards and give them yours.

The importers seem to have their own information system. After a few shows, buying something from various dealers and you'll be known to more dealers than you could ever believe. A large number of small family type gem importers work out of the Diamond Trade Assoc., (DTA) in New York. They simply have an office where there is a common telephone answering service. You can imagine how private their customer lists are! After a couple of years, you'll be receiving calls or visits from some of them. Then is when you can start buying the more expensive materials. It helps and makes it move faster if yoy have a store but it is by no means required. The fact that you are buying gems in quantity is all that is necessary.

After you have established a good reputation with several importers, you'll find that they make it almost too easy to buy more than is prudent. Based simply on your reputation, dealers will leave thousands of dollars worth of stones with you on memo, saying send me a check in 30, 60 or 90 days or even when you can. It's amazing! Just don't go overboard, the importers information system can also be a disadvantage. One bad check or failure to pay will also be known country wide.

Having been through this process over the past 20 years doing lapidary work for and selling stones to jewelers, they now refer any travelling gem dealers to me! To keep up with the gem market it is imperative that you take time to check each importers stock and prices. Over a period of time you'll find that a certain dealer will have one or two items priced much below others prices. You'll probably end up buying amethyst or Brazilian stones from one, sapphire and ruby from another and emerald from a third.

The small importers method of doing business can sometimes lead to a real bargain if you know what to look for. These importers typically go to Thailand and purchase parcels of stones. They then travel around the country, selling one or two stones to various jewelers. Of course the jewelers pick out the more symmetrical stones so that the importer is left with a few very poorly cut stones in his parcel. As he has made a good profit on the more well cut stones, he'll usually take less than his cost to dispose of the rest. You won't luck up on this every day but when you do it's an unbelievable opportunity. I remember one parcel of 8 rubies, one and one half to three carats in size that I was able to buy for \$120.00 per carat.

While you're looking through parcels of stones, you'll notice that a percentage will be cut shallow. As these are of no use for recutting, they should be rejected. Generally, if you're buying a sufficient quantity, the importer will have no objections. Some importers will quote both a parcel and a pick price. If the difference is only a few dollars, or you're looking at some of the more expensive stones, it will be better to pay the extra dollars and take only what you want.

From the above you have probably come to the conclusion that this is a business with no rules. You're right! For the uninitiated, it can be a nightmare. It is a great help to be both a facetor and a Gemologist, or at least have a good knowledge of gems and gem materials.

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Thomas J. Ricks

"STONE CULLER"

N. C. LAPIDARY SOCIETY

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